

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete Claims 1-9, and add the following new claims 10-28:

10. (new) A process for producing a dimensionally stable pack made of cardboard, in particular a hinge-lid box for cigarettes, comprising the following sequential steps:

(a) providing the pack with an outer wrapper having folding tabs, the outer wrapper made of sealable film; *Figs. 1 & 2*

(b) folding the tabs into a region of tab overlap; *Fig 2*

(c) temporarily maintaining the tabs in the region of tab overlap by tacking or by tack connection; and *claim 1 step (d) via 1st heat seal*

(d) fixedly maintaining the tabs in the region of tab overlap by full-surface sealing. *Col 1; Step (5) and 4. 1. 1.*

11. (new) The process according to Claim 10, wherein step (c) of temporarily maintaining the tabs in the region of tab overlap is by small surface-area spot sealing. *wa 64, 67, 68*

12. (new) The process according to Claim 10, wherein step (c) of temporarily maintaining the tabs in the region of tab overlap is by small surface-area linear sealing.

13. (new) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the outer wrapper is a film that *E. Notice* shrinks when subjected to heat treatment, and the process further comprising the sequential step *45 8 57* (e) of heat treating the outer wrapper to generate shrinkage of the outer wrapper.

14. (new) The process according to Claim 10, the outer wrapper having folding side tabs and at least one set of additional folding tabs selected from the group consisting of folding end wall tabs and folding base wall tabs, wherein step (a) of providing the pack with an outer wrapper is by folding a blank of film, the blank forming the outer wrapper, around the pack in a tubular shape, and wherein the tabs of steps (b-d) are the side tabs, the process further comprising the following sequential steps:

(e) \folding the at least one set of additional folding tabs into a region of tab overlap;

and

(f) temporarily maintaining the at least one set of additional folding tabs in the region overlap by tacking or by tack connection.

15. (new) The process according to Claim 13, the outer wrapper having folding side tabs and at least one set of additional folding tabs selected from the group consisting of folding end wall tabs and folding base wall tabs, wherein step (a) of providing the pack with an outer wrapper is by folding a blank of film, the blank forming the outer wrapper, around the pack in a tubular shape, and wherein the tabs of steps (b-d) are the side tabs, the process further comprising the following sequential steps before step (e) but after step (d):

(i) folding the at least one set of additional folding tabs into a region of tab overlap;

and

(ii) temporarily maintaining the at least one set of additional folding tabs in the region overlap by tacking or by tack connection.

16. (new) The process according to Claim 14, wherein step (c) of temporarily maintaining the tabs in the region of tab overlap is by small surface-area spot sealing.

17. (new) The process according to Claim 14, wherein step (c) of temporarily maintaining the tabs in the region of tab overlap is by narrow continuous linear sealing.

18. (new) The process according to Claim 14, wherein step (c) of temporarily maintaining the tabs in the region of tab overlap is by narrow interrupted linear sealing.

19. (new) The process according to Claim 14, wherein step (f) of temporarily maintaining the at least one set of additional folding tabs in the region of tab overlap is by two spaced-apart, transverse tacking strips.

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20. (new) A process for producing dimensionally stable packs made of cardboard, in particular hinge-lid boxes for cigarettes, comprising the following sequential steps:

- (a) providing a plurality of packs;
- (b) providing an outer wrapper of shrink-wrap film for each pack, the outer wrapper having at least one set of folding tabs selected from the group consisting of folding end wall tabs and folding base wall tabs;
- (c) inserting a pack in communication with the outer wrapper into a pocket of a
folding turret in such a way that partially overlapping side tabs are formed from the outer
wrapper;
- (d) temporarily maintaining the side tabs in a region of side tab overlap by tacking or by tack connection while the pack remains in the pocket of the folding turret;
- (e) folding the remaining surface area of the outer wrapper around the pack while the pack is removed from the pocket of the folding turret;
- (f) temporarily maintaining the at least one set of additional folding tabs in the region of tab overlap;
- (g) fixedly maintaining the tabs in the region of tab overlap by full-surface sealing.

21. (new) The process according to Claim 20, wherein step (b) of providing an outer wrapper of shrink-wrap film for each pack is by a blank unit providing a continuous material web of film, wherein step (c) of inserting a pack in communication with the outer wrapper into a pocket of a folding turret is by a first horizontal pack path, wherein upon removing the pack after step (e), the pack is positioned onto a horizontal folding path, wherein step (f) of temporarily maintaining the at least one set of additional folding tabs in the region of tab overlap is provided in an upright pack tower, and wherein the step (g) of fixedly maintaining the tabs in the region of

tab overlap by full-surface sealing is provided by sealing tools in the region of the pack tower and sealing jaws in the region of a sealing path.

22. (new) Apparatus for providing an outer wrapper made of thin film, preferably shrink-wrap film, on dimensionally stable packs made of thin cardboard or the like, in particular on hinge-lid boxes for cigarettes, comprising:

- (a) a folding assembly for providing the outer wrapper in tubular form on the pack;
- (b) at least one tacking station for providing a tacking seal in the region of an overlap of side tabs of the outer wrapper; and
- (c) at least one sealing station for the preferably full-surface sealing of the folding tabs in the region of the overlaps.

23. (new) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the folding assembly is a folding turret.

24. (new) The apparatus of Claim 22, wherein the sealing station is a sealing path.

25. (new) The apparatus of Claim 23 further comprising tacking elements, wherein the tacking stations for tacking the side tabs are assigned to the folding turret, with the tacking elements outside the movement path of the folding turret, it being possible for the tacking elements, which carry out the tacking operation, to be moved against the radially outwardly directed, folded side tabs.

26. (new) The apparatus of Claim 23, the outer wrapper further has end wall folding tabs and base wall folding tabs, wherein folding of the end wall folding tabs and base wall folding tabs can be completed in a horizontal folding path adjoining the folding turret, and in that further tacking elements are arranged at the end of the folding path in order to provide the tacking strips in the region of the folded end wall folding tabs and base wall folding tabs.

27. (new) The apparatus of Claim 25, the outer wrapper further has end wall folding tabs